Over the course of our lives, the quality of each day is determined by our ability to meet the challenges we are presented with from the built environment. For those who are not able-bodied, these challenges are difficult to overcome because everyday design is not supportive, forgiving, or universal. By utilizing the universal design principles we can create environments that increase the quality of everyone’s lives. Universal design is not a trend but an enduring design approach that assumes the range of human ability is ordinary, not special (Prieser, 2001).

### universal design

Our successes & our failures are the direct result of the interactions between the environment & our abilities. - Patricia A. Moore

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#### circulation

Routing can be very difficult. Routes should be direct and simple to allow user to find destinations and orient themselves in an effort to create a cognitive map of the space. The route one uses should also lend some obstacles to overcome, such as stairs, so there is a moment of wanting to adapt and achieve.

- path comprised of soft-scape, such as cedar mulch or gravel, with hard-scape lining the edges to indicate path
- planter acts as guide along path and provides user with tactile and olfactory aids for cognitive mapping
- drainage channel for recycling water
- use of different materials and colors to mark the primary circulation path through a space
- sliding doors reduce accidental injury and allow for easy circulation between spaces
- furniture placed at the edges of circulation acts as a guiding element
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#### storage

Research shows that cluttered spaces distract people and can even cause stress. The need for simple, clean lined and easily accessed storage is a must.

- unit is at eye level so that items, such as shoes and books can be seen and accessed easily
- dark surface on top contrasts with light colored walls and unit so user knows where to place an object
- small lip on edge of unit to prevent objects on top from falling off
- contrasting drawer pulls
- optional open area for hanging clothes or shelving is at eye level and easily accessible
- wall unit offers multiple storage options
- pullout shelving allows for a flush wall; contrasting handles join the handrail for guidance and stability
- the opposite side of the drawers can be a work surface or storage shelf

#### recreation

Children with disabilities can benefit from different forms of therapies, including horticulture and basket weaving. Spaces for these activities should be developed to promote relaxation and healing.

- workspace for basket weaving, horticulture therapy, or woodworking that allows individual work or work done in pairs
- attached sink with foot pedal to activate water and faucet built into side of sink to create a clutter free workspace
- storage with color coded shelves for materials

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#### schemes

arranging spaces to create "homes" within a community

- social & interior recession
- recreation & family areas
- meeting rooms &打破 space